

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

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SUBJECT Coastal Defense Installations on the
Northern Tip of Kurland

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Eight artillery pieces are located directly northwest of a chain of hills known as Zilie Kalni, or Blue Mountains, on the northern tip of Kurland, Latvian SSR. This defense system, made up of eight-inch guns which are emplaced in well-camouflaged underground bunkers, was installed to protect Kurland from landings, to coordinate fire with batteries on the southern tip of Saaremaa Island, and to give complete control over Irben Sound, the entrance to the Gulf of Riga. Each gun is located four to five hundred meters from the next gun, and the eight pieces form a defense line which extends for about four kilometers along the coast. The guns are usually fired in salvos of four at a time.
2. On the south side of the Zilie Kalni hills, in the direction of Dundaga (57 31 N - 22 50 E), Latvian SSR, the Soviets have completed and extended an airfield which they began in 1940-41, and which was used by the Germans during their occupation. This field is about three kilometers long by two and one-half kilometers wide, and squadrons of medium bombers have been observed landing and taking off from the field. Underground storage depots and extensive shops are located near the field, but no definite information is available on the exact location of such installations. It is rumored that V-bomb installations are being constructed on the northwestern side of the airfield, in the neighborhood of Slitere. The entire civil population of this part of Kurland has been evacuated from the area, which is strictly prohibited to civilians.

Comment

this area was being developed as a sea-land strong point.

eight-inch gun for coastal defense because the weapon is very effective against landing craft. The Soviets prefer the

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